



## **MONTHLY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Ruppert Sargent Building Veterans Conference Room  
1 Franklin Street, Hampton, Virginia

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

**Committee Members Present:** Carole Barton, William Berg, Nicholas Borelli, Marti Chick-Ebey, Rochelle Crockett, Tony Eaton, Pete Fairchild, John Gately, Libby Kendrick, Arnold Lorea, Sheila Mason, John Meyer, Al Myers, Michelle Pauley, Tony Soltys, Chuck Valliant

**City Representatives Present:** Ann Bane and Jim Wilson

**Visitors:** DAV Chapter 13 (Yorktown): Larry Conley and Terry Bohlinger; Military Women Across the Nation: Venetta Charles; USS Gerald R Ford: Kristen Maxwell; VFW Post 824: Bobby Edwards, Sharon Anderson and Lee Upright; VFW Post 3219: Steve Roache; Homes for Heroes: Christine Anglin; Mel Barton, USAF (Ret); Ryan Douglas, TNCC; Bernadette Taranto, USN; Ben Atanacio, Vets Coordinator, HDC

**Speaker:** Colonel William S. Galbraith, USA, Commander, Army Element, Fort Eustis, VA

- I. Welcome to visitors, honorees and speaker.
- II. Approval of March 10<sup>th</sup> Minutes – Motion to approve by Tony Soltys, seconded by Pete Fairchild, and approved unanimously by committee. The chairman indicated that we are instituting a new roll call process to save time whereby members and guests will sign in upon arrival rather than calling names.
- III. Expression of Appreciation for Support.
  - A. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor and City Council recognized several groups and individuals who supported the veterans in our community through events such as the Veterans Stand-down, which helped over 130 homeless and at-risk veterans through the efforts of over 250 volunteers. The chairman thanked Sheila Mason for her role in coordinating the MAC's participation in the event and presented the following individuals with the awards from City Council:
    1. Hampton VA Medical Center: Marti Chick-Ebey for her total commitment to homeless veterans and for her original and continued initiatives to partner with the MAC to create successful stand-downs over the past two years. The chairman also noted that the Hampton VAMC is the fastest growing VAMC in the country. Marti thanked the MAC for

making the Stand-down a successful community event. There will be at least one more Stand-down – tentatively scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>.

2. DAV Chapter 13 (Yorktown): Pete Fitzpatrick and Terry Bohlinger
3. Military Women Across the Nation: Venetta Charles
4. USS Gerald R Ford: Kristen Maxwell
5. VFW Post 824: Bobby Edwards, Sharon Anderson and Lee Upright
6. VFW Post 3219: Steve Roache

- B. The chairman also expressed the MAC's appreciation for Julie Gifford, Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia, for her support of veterans. He noted that on April 10<sup>th</sup>, Governor Terry McAuliffe proclaimed April as "Month of the Military Child" and encouraged Virginians to wear purple on April 15 to show their support for military-connected children.

IV. Guest Speaker: Colonel William S. Galbraith, Commander, 733d Mission Support Group, Joint Base Langley-Eustis. COL William Galbraith reported on the following events and issues:

- A. 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration event will be taking place at Fort Eustis May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The event, which honors Vietnam veterans, will kick-off with a motorcycle ride by VA State Police, followed by a luncheon with keynote speaker retired Army Col. Emmett Knight. The festivities continue Saturday with a golf tournament, a Retiree Appreciation Day, and a retro-themed celebration featuring food, music, stories and fashion. Several local South Vietnamese residents who risked their lives helping American soldiers are expected to be in attendance. COL Galbraith handed out flyers and invited MAC members to attend the event and celebrate the service of this generation of soldiers.
- B. General Odierno, USA Chief of Staff, recently issued a proclamation that the Month of the Military Child be recognized on military bases. Throughout the month of April, Army organizations will provide events to recognize Army children.
- C. Joint Base Langley-Eustis will host visits and classes to STEM students in the local area. Students will be able to view ships, simulations, and engineering work and learn the importance of STEM education in the military.
- D. Recent studies have confirmed that the number of sexual assaults in the military has significantly dropped, according to the Defense Department. The decrease demonstrates the effectiveness of current sexual awareness and training initiatives.
- E. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, military leaders will be honored by the Langley Civic Leaders Associations' Annual Luau at the Virginia Air and Space Center.

- F. After COL Galbraith's briefing, Chairman John Gately presented him with a MAC Coin to express the MAC's appreciation for his efforts to support active duty military, veterans, and families.

V. Chairman's Activity / Meeting Report.

- A. The Celebration of the Military Child was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Coordinated in partnership with Military Newspapers of Virginia, it was a huge success with over 3,500 attendees. The chairman presented a MAC Coin to Adair Wells, MNV, for her extraordinary contribution to our partnership. Adair thanked the MAC and noted that with our assistance, they had over forty vendors participate in the event. Thanks were also extended to the sailors of the USS Gerald R. Ford who volunteered their time to assist with the event.
- B. Wall of Remembrance. A ceremony to unveil "The Wall of Remembrance," hosted by the JBLE Survivor's Outreach Services ("SOS") organization, was held at Fort Eustis on March 12th. Rochelle Crockett, SOS, reported that 54 photos of service-members from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, who died on active duty and whose families are associated with the center, were displayed on the wall in honor of their service and sacrifice. The emotional event was attended by families of the fallen. John Gately and Michelle Pauley attended the event on behalf of the MAC.

VI. City Reports

- A. Ann Bane thanked the city for supporting the map event at CMC and noted that our Hampton City Schools have a wonderful relationship with Langley Air Force Base and other military installations.
- B. Jim Wilson encouraged attendance at the upcoming International Children's Festival at Mill Point Park. Information is available on the website.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Communications. Michelle Pauley, Chair. Nicholas Borelli has created a great video for the MAC which will be posted on the website after approval.
- B. Community Affairs. Tony Soltys and Pat Garvey, Co-chairs.
  - 1. There was a tremendous response to, and attendance at, the Military-to-Maritime event on March 31<sup>st</sup>. It was one of the best attended M2M events held in the region. Congratulations to Julie Gifford for her principal role in coordinating the event.
  - 2. Veterans Docket. The court continues to meeting at 2PM on Tuesdays. Tony Soltys expressed his appreciation of Ryan Douglas, a recent war veteran and part of the younger generation the MAC is intent upon serving well, for his willingness to provide his perspective.

3. A Mental Health Fair will be held at the Kroc Center on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The HVAMC director will open the event. Tony has played a principal role in planning for the event and engaging special speakers.
- C. Family Support. Peggy Mertz, Chair. In Peggy's absence, the chairman reported that on April 1<sup>st</sup>, at Bethel Manor, Bruce Sturk offered remarks on behalf of Hampton and the MAC before a JBLE Community Events Council (CEC), a group comprised of military leaders, DOD civilians and invited civic leaders who address military family members on items of interest. At this event, the MAC will have repeated opportunities to highlight MAC initiatives for military personnel and families.
- D. Veterans Affairs. Sheila Mason, Chair.
1. Sheila reported on the status of the upcoming Tuskegee Airmen/Andy Greenwell ceremony in May during the regularly scheduled MAC meeting. The chairman noted that the Mayor and other VIP's will attend and turnout is expected to be high. This is a signature event for the MAC.
  2. Hampton National Cemetery is having a Memorial Day event on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. They need people to plant flags on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and remove them on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### VIII. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- A. 10 AM, Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> VA Veteran Services Meeting in the dormitory, Building 148, Room 136.
- B. 9 AM, Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Quarterly Cleanup of Oakland Cemetery. Please, if you wish to participate, bring a mower, a trimmer or weed eater, and proper safety gear for the event as these items will not be provided. Contact MSgt. John J. Deese, USAF, Oakland Cemetery Committee, AFSA Chapter 358, Langley AFB, 757-764-8927.
- C. 5 PM, Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. MAC Meeting with special Tuskegee Airmen Award and Proclamation Ceremony, Veterans Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building.
- D. 5-8 PM, Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, "Joint Military Spouse Appreciation Night," formerly called, "Evening under the Stars." Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton VA. Local vendors providing massages, community resources, arts & crafts, beauty consultations and much more to military spouses. Call 764-3990 for details.
- E. Noon-3 PM, Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Hampton VAMC County Fair
- F. Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> "50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War" at Fort Eustis.
- G. Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, special private screenings of WHRO's "Veterans Coming Home" for vets. 11AM first screening; 2 PM, second screening. VCH is an online resource that provides

access to, and information on, employment, medical, and education services for vets. VCH shares men's and women's personal stories of obstacles and triumph to offer inspiration to fellow vets and help the community understand their experiences. Eight short videos featuring local veterans. At WHRO, 5200 Hampton Blvd, in Norfolk. RSVP to Nancy.rogan@whro.org.

H. 10 AM, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Hampton National Cemetery Memorial Day Commemoration

I. 10 AM – 4 PM, Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> (tentative date), Veterans' Stand Down

IX. Other Business

A. Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

1. In partnership with Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (VPCC), Paragon Theaters in Newport News is hosting a free screening of "American Sniper" on May 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of Armed Forces Day.
2. VPCC also announced the formation of the Fort Eustis Civic Leaders Association and thanked MG Ridge for his role in forming the organization, which will play a role similar to that of the MAC.

B. Survivor Outreach Services: Rochelle Crockett thanked COL Galbraith for supporting the SOS office at Fort Eustis, as well as the Wall of Remembrance.

X. Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Next MAC Planning Meeting, 11 AM, Thursday, May 7th  
Lawson Conference Room, Eighth Floor, City Hall, Hampton, Virginia

Next MAC Meeting with Special Observances, 5 PM, Tuesday, May 12th  
Vets Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building, 1 Franklin Street, Hampton